

**National Gallery of Art
The Council Meeting
Meeting Notes_DRAFT
March 13, 2013**

Members present:

Diane Arkin	Audrey Kramer	Joyce Schwartz
Irene Bortolussi	Dianne Maffia	Dianne Stephens
Jennifer Cross	Anne Marie Marenburg	Michele Sutton
Liz Diamant	Patricia Martin	Maria Elena Weissman
Virginia Flavin	Arlette Raspberry	Joan Zeizel
Heidi Hinish	Cathy Ryan	
Marta Horgan	Wil Scott	

Members absent:

Sally Hoffman
Deirdre Palmer
Ann Marie Plubell
Lynn Russell
Diedre Tillery

Welcome

Chairman Anne Marie Marenburg called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

East Building Renovation

- Wil Scott spoke in response to the morning's *Washington Post* article about the renovation of the East Building. He said that the article ran prematurely and that all questions should be directed to the press office.
- While there will be challenges associated with the closing of the East Building, the Council agreed that there will be many positive opportunities resulting from the change.

Heidi Hinish

On behalf of Lynn Russell, Heidi delivered the following information:

- The new website is in beta phase. The link to the beta site will be shared with staff and volunteers for feedback. The new website is slated to launch in late April.
- The new NGA mobile app (*Your Art*) is now available for the iPhone and iPod Touch. At this point the app is only available on Apple products.
- The Pre-Raphaelite exhibit has been well attended.
- The Albrecht Dürer exhibit opens March 24.
- *Diaghilev and the Ballets Russes* opens on May 12. There will be three dance performances presented this summer in conjunction with this exhibit.
- Ten staff members attended and presented papers at the National Art Education Association Conference in Fort Worth, Texas. There were 4000 attendees. Co-creation/ making meaning together with our visitors was a hot topic at the convention.

Art Information Report, Michelle Sutton

- Art information is in the process of recruiting and interviewing a new class of volunteers.

- They are requiring all recruits to attend docent led gallery tours.
- As part of their training, recruits will follow both adult and school tours.
- They are working on a mission statement.

School Docent Report, Joyce Schwartz

- The school docents were surveyed on various aspects regarding their committees (Virginia, Maryland and DC). There was a 72% response rate.
- A school docent emeritus luncheon will be held on May 1. 120 emeritus school docents are invited to attend a tour of the Kaufman Collection followed by lunch in the Garden Café.

Foreign Language Docents, Maria Elena Weissman

- They are in need of more foreign language docents for school and adult tours.
- Foreign language docents have helped with foreign language translations for the new website.
- The sign advertising foreign language tours has disappeared. This has been duly noted and will be replaced.

Weekend Adult Program, Virginia Flavin

- Working to validate more docents to give the 17th century tour.

Weekday Adult Program, Anne Marie Marenburg

- A new tour, *Glimpses of 17th Century Life*, is being given on Tuesdays at 11:30 to 12:30. The tour takes advantage of the southwest quadrant of the West Building (Tiepolo to Vermeer). The tour provide visitors with an opportunity to learn more about the social, cultural, political and religious forces at play in Europe by comparing and contrasting the art of Flanders, Holland, Spain and France. The tour also would introduce visitors to the formal language of 17th C painters –their exploration of illusionistic effects and their engagement with the expressive power of light, color and movement—which resonated through later centuries. School docents should be sure to keep docents of this tour in the loop regarding their rotations. It was suggested that this tour begin at 12 noon, after the bulk of school tours are complete.

Old Business

- Bylaws changes (showing original and new language) need to be sent to the docent corps thirty days prior to the bylaws meeting (May 22). Anne Marie Marenburg will send out a suggested change to the Volunteer Council bylaws for an online vote.
- The Volunteer Council mission statement is in progress and will be shared at the next meeting.

New Business

- Heidi Hinish spoke about the [National Docent Symposium](#), to be held in San Francisco October 17-20, 2013. The Gallery will pay the registration cost for three docents to attend the conference; all other expenses are the responsibility of the docent. For consideration, interested docents should submit their name to their committee chair by March 29th. One school docent and one adult docent will be selected randomly; the third attendee will be selected randomly from a mixture of interested school and adult docents. There is a limit of four participants per institution. The fourth participant is reserved for staff.

The Council

Meeting Minutes

March 13, 2013

Page 3 of 3

Action Items

- Draft of Volunteer Council mission statement
- Selection of docents attending the National Docent Symposium
- Email vote on language change amendment for the Bylaws

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Volunteer Council is scheduled for Wednesday, May 8, 10:30 am.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:10.

Respectfully submitted by Cathy Ryan